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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LUXEMBOURG TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of the statement by the Presidency of the European Union concerning the peace process in Angola issued on 13 August 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and of its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg
to the United Nations

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Annex

Statement dated 13 August 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the peace process in Angola

The European Union notes with considerable concern the failure of the União para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) to make any significant progress towards meeting the demilitarization demands set out in paragraph 13 of United Nations Security Council resolution 1118 of 30 June 1997. Over six weeks have elapsed since that resolution was adopted, but despite frequent reminders, notably in statements by the President of the Security Council and the peace process Mediation and the Troika of Observers on 23 July and 4 August respectively, UNITA has still not provided credible information regarding its armed personnel.

It is also to be highly regretted that UNITA has not yet enabled the process of extending State administration throughout Angola to be resumed, that it has not yet taken the measures to transform "Vorgan" into a non-partisan radio station and that it continues to disrupt the smooth running of the demobilization programme.

The European Union welcomes the active participation of UNITA in the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation and the National Assembly, but believes that the continuing reluctance of the movement's leadership to complete its Lusaka Protocol obligations, resorting instead to delaying tactics, is calling into serious question the genuineness of its commitment to the peace process. Noting that the Angolan situation is shortly to be considered once more by the Security Council on the basis of a report from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the European Union calls upon UNITA to demonstrate clearly that such fears are unfounded by fulfilling its remaining tasks without further delay.

In particular, the European Union appeals to the UNITA leadership to provide immediately and fully the information that has been demanded on its military personnel and to arrange for its complete verification by the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) and subsequent demobilization.

It is the view of the European Union that further failure on the part of UNITA to meet its obligations will almost certainly make unavoidable the imposition of additional measures as outlined in earlier Security Council resolutions, notably resolution 864 (1993) of 15 September 1993.

Meanwhile, the European Union is disturbed by the persistent tension in various parts of the country, and strongly urges the Government of Angola and UNITA to do all that they can to bring about an improvement in the situation, and in particular to refrain from the use of force in accordance with their Lusaka Protocol commitments.

Finally, the European Union commends the efforts made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Troika of Observers to help achieve a lasting peace in Angola.